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The state of Washington has a historical commitment to helping its neediest citizens enroll in and complete college. Programs like the State Need Grant (SNG), administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), help tens of thousands of students annually realize their dream of earning a college certificate or degree.

Unfortunately, during this academic year, far too many who qualify for a State Need Grant will not receive one. This will occur for two reasons:

- 1) The SNG appropriation was reduced for 2010-11 due to across-the-board budget cuts needed to balance the state budget. This will create approximately 2,000 additional eligible but unserved students.
- 2) Many more students than normal applied and qualified for a State Need Grant. The program served more than 70,000 students in the 2009-10 academic year; however, there were 22,000 eligible but unserved students for that same year.

The SNG is typically awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; therefore, **students should fill out the FAFSA and complete their financial aid file as soon as possible after January 1st of each year.**

Visit www.fafsa.gov to apply and contact the financial aid office of the college or university you intend to apply to.

The HECB, and the state's higher education institutions, student organizations, and many other groups, will continue to encourage the Legislature to increase financial aid funding in the coming biennium to keep up with rising levels of demand and increased tuition and fees.

To learn more about student financial assistance programs, please see our website www.hecb.wa.gov/paying.